

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 SOFIA 02439 061121Z

44

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 /016 W
----- 024589

R 060651Z NOV 75
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 431

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 2439

FOR IMV/C (INFO: IEU)

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SCUL, BU
SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONAL FILM "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT"

REF: SOFIA 1696

1. SUMMARY: WHILE "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT" DOES NOT MEET
LOCAL PROGRAM NEEDS, WE STILL HOPE FOR PRESTPWE FILM FOR
REPRESENTATIONAL SHOWING. ALTERNATIVE TITLES ARE
SUGGESTED. WE WOULD ALSO WELCOME WASHINGTON SUGGESTIONS.
END SUMMARY

2. AMBASSADOR, DCM AND P&C OFFICER HAVE SCREENED "THAT'S
ENTERTAINMENT" (IN GOB FILM IMPORT-EXPORT AGENCY'S
SCREENING ROOM). WE REGRETFULLY CONCLUDED IT SHOULD NOT
BE SHOWN AS PROPOSED REFTTEL.

3. IN REACHING THIS DECISION, WE WERE ESPECIALLY MINDFUL
THAT THIS WOULD BE FIRST USG ACTIVITY OF ITS TYPE IN
BULGARIA AND THAT SHOWING WAS TO HAVE BEEN CO-SPONSORED
WITH GOB MINISTERIAL-LEVEL COMMITTEE FOR ART AND
CULTURE. THEREFORE FILM MUST BE OF ABSOLUTELY HIGHEST
QUALITY AND PRESENT MOST FAVORABLE IMAGE OF AMERICAN
CINEMATIC AND ARTISTIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS. "THAT'S
ENTERTAINMENT" IS WORTHY OF INCLUSION IN ON-GOING SERIES,
SUCH AS OTHER EMBASSIES HAVE, OR OF SHOWING ON UNILATERAL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 SOFIA 02439 061121Z

USG BASIS, WHICH WE WOULD HAVE CONSIDERED IF WE HAD

OUR OWN 35MM FACILITIES. BUT THIS FILM DOES NOT MEET STANDARDS REQUIRED FOR FIRST JOINT PRESENTATION.

4. AMERICAN AUDIENCES ARE USED TO SELF-CONGRATULATORY, OVERLY EULOGISTIC TONE NARRATORS IN "THAT ENTERTAINMENT" USE TOWARD EACH OTHER AND PARTICULARLY TOWARD MGM. MOST OF THIS NARRATION, HOWEVER, WOULD STRIKE BULGARIANS AS EITHER LUDICROUS OR DISTASTEFUL. MANY OF THE PERFORMERS, AND HENCE SEGMENTS, IN FIRST PART OF FILM ARE NOT OF HIGH CINEMATIC QUALITY. SOME SEGMENTS WOULD BE LOST ON BULGARIAN AUDIENCES (E.G., SINGING BY ACTORS WHO COULDN'T SING OR SEGMENT WITH JIMMY DURANTE). AND AT LEAST ONE (MINSTREL SCENE) IS FRANKLY OFFENSIVE TO ANYONE UNAWARE THAT THIS IS LONG-DEAD TRADITION.

5. IN CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES, WE HAVE REVIEWED LIST OF FILMS INCLUDED IN LAST SHALL'S 35MM "PRESTIGE FILMS" SERIES FOR EE POSTS (WHICH WE WERE FORCED TO BYPASS, GIVEN STATE OF USG-GOB RELATIONS AT THAT TIME) AND THOSE INCLUDED IN IMV'S "SHOWCASE CLASSIC FEATURE FILMS" SERIES (FOR WHICH WE PRESUME 35MM PRINTS COULD BE OBTAINED), AS WELL AS LIMITED INFORMATION AVAILABLE LOCALLY ON RECENT AMERICAN FILMS. LEFT TO OUR OWN RESOURCES WE CAN IDENTIFY THREE FILMS WHICH MIGHT MEET OUR CRITERIA: "MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS," "MUSIC MAN" AND (CONCEIVABLY) "THE PAWNBROKER." NONE HAS BEEN SHOWN IN BULGARIA, BUT "MURDER" HAS BEEN PURCHASED FOR COMMERCIAL SHOWINGS, POSSIBLY BEGINNING LATE THIS YEAR. (BEST RECENT MUSICAL, "CABARET," RECEIVED EXTENSIVE COMMERCIAL RUNS LAST YEAR THROUGHOUT COUNTRY.) NONE, HOWEVER, SEEMS IDEAL FOR OUR PURPOSES.

6. WE THEREFORE ASK USIA TO:

A. DETERMINE AVAILABILITY OF 35MM PRINTS OF "MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS" (BEFORE END OF 1975) AND "MUSIC MAN."

B. COMMENT ON THESE FILMS, PLUS "PAWNBROKER," AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 SOFIA 02439 061121Z

SUGGEST OTHERS WHICH MIGHT MEET OUR CRITERIA.
HERZ

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, MOTION PICTURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975SOFIA02439
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750386-0094
From: SOFIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751167/aaaacikg.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 SOFIA 1696
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPRESENTATIONAL FILM "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT"
TAGS: SCUL, BU
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006